

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/092,778

Examiner

D. I. Lee

Applicant(s)

FITZGIBBONS ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/15/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed 15 October 2003. Claims 12 and 14 have been amended; no claims have been canceled; and no claims have been newly added.
2. Applicant's arguments, see page 8, lines 22+, filed 15 October 2003, with respect to the difference of Baker et al. reference and the applicant's claimed invention have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-20 under U.S.C. 102(b) has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Baker et al. discloses a processing apparatus validating imaging results of the mail piece feature discrimination technique (i.e., imaging device in conjunction of the processor configured to imaging the face of the mail piece having a destination address in bar code and an alphanumeric characters, and evaluating the bar code accuracy including the utilization of OCR). The process includes validating or rejecting the bar code accuracy against the bar code requirement data, which provides information pertinent to acceptability of a bar code and wherein the processor controls the sequential process of the mail piece in the mail handler including the segregation of the failed mail pieces into a separate rejection bin for later review.

Moed et al. discloses a system for reading package information having an image device and a label decoding device. The imaging device captures an image of a package surface having a machine readable code such as a bar code and an alphanumeric destination address. The label decoding device validates the bar code data by decoding the bar code data and compares the bar code data against the database of the valid address of the system, thus determines whether the decoded destination address matches the valid address in the database. When the decoded address does not match the valid address in the database, the system automatically optimized to correct OCR errors by substituting common error and displays the valid address for a visual comparison by the operator.

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One of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the teachings of Baker, Moed, alone or in combination with other reference, in order to obtain the claimed selective sequential processing apparatus validating one of a first or a second feature discrimination technique result when the results of a first feature discrimination technique and a second feature discrimination technique correspond to each other, and outputting the validated value or result for control of sequential selective process while rejecting only article here neither of the result is validated, as set forth in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. I. Lee whose telephone number is 703-306-3427. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Note: After January 15, 2004, the examiner can be reached on 571-272-2399 and the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398.


D. I. Lee
Primary Examiner
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D. L.